



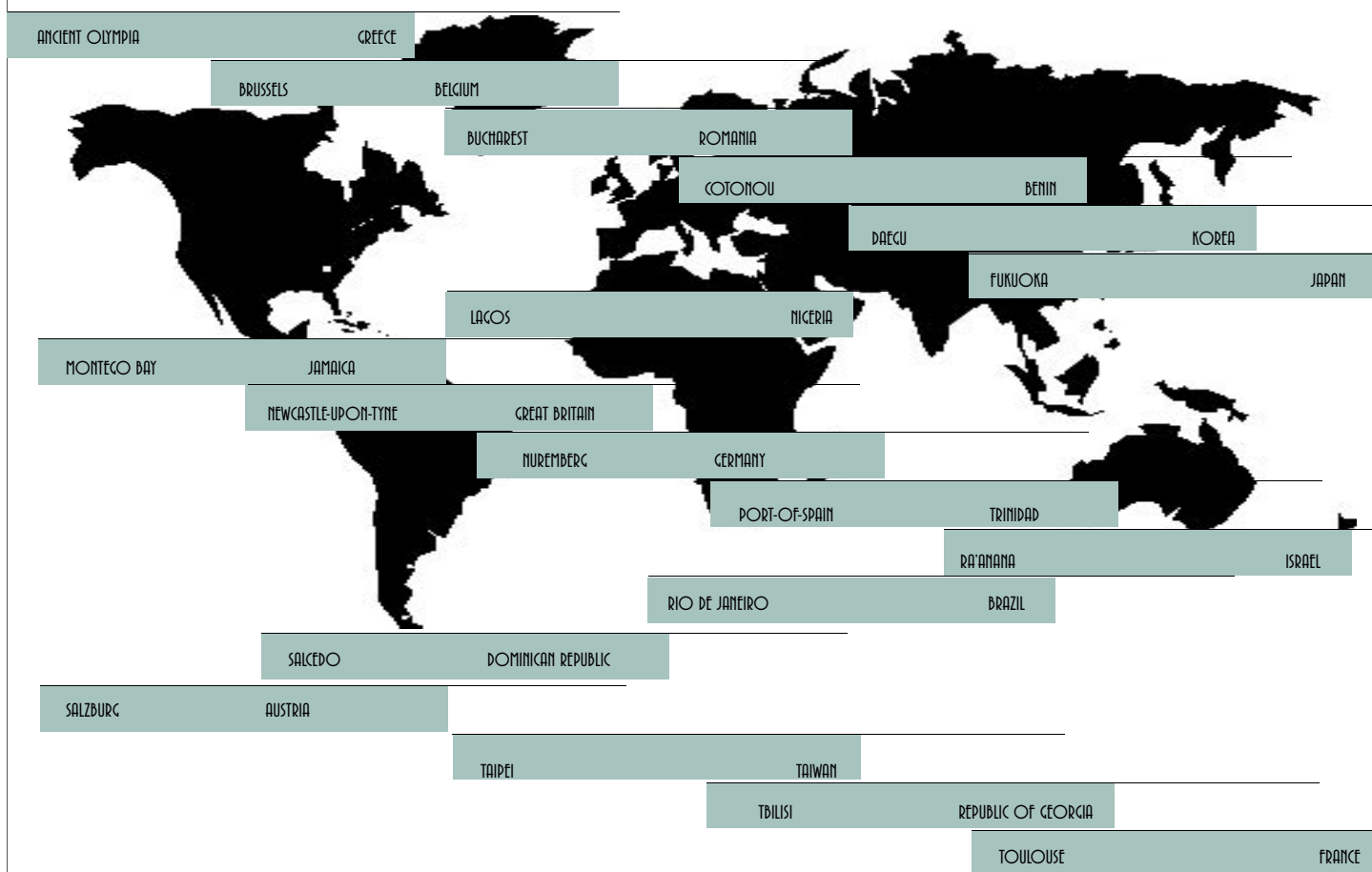
2006

ANNUAL REPORT



A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

ANNUAL REPORT



2006

ANNUAL REPORT

TO

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

INTRODUCTION 2

The Honorable Lisa Borders
President, Atlanta City Council

COMMISSION REPORTS 3

FROM

Teri Simmons
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

COMMITTEE REPORTS 4



I am pleased to submit to you the 2006 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC).

In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2006 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

20
06

PAGE I

A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S

C O M M I S S I O N

2006 INTRODUCTION

ANNUAL REPORT

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the ASCC membership. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Teri Simmons was elected as Chair, and Dr. Arnold Heller as Vice Chair, in 2006.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2006 were Cedric Suzman, Ph.D, Samuel Bacote and Amanda Shailendra. Debra Snell was appointed by the City Council.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

Officers include:

Secretary	Charleise Young, Ph.D
Treasurer	Samuel Bacote

Other standing committees of the Commission are listed opposite.

Staff

The Commission is supported by the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly and special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2006 Claire McLeveighn, director of External Affairs and International Relations, played a vital role as coordinator for the Mayor's Office.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx

Atlanta's Sister City Committees

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia – Greece	1994	Margo Alexander, Ph.D.
Brussels - Belgium	1983	
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Cotonou – Benin	1995	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Daegu - Korea	1981	Mr. Young Kang
Fukuoka	2005	Ms. Sumiko Renfroe
Lagos – Nigeria	1974	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.
Montego Bay - Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin, Atty
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg - Germany	1998	Ms. Teri Simmons, Atty
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Mrs. Wilma Kruger
Ra'anana - Israel	2000	Arnold Heller, Ph.D.
Salcedo - Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg - Austria	1967	
Taipei - Taiwan	1974	Mr. David Chang/David Yu
Tbilisi - Republic of Georgia	1988	BG (R) Thomas McCullough
Toulouse – France	1974	Mrs. Betty Davis

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission - Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Executive Committee	Ms. Teri Simmons
Fund Raising Committee	Cedric Suzman, Ph.D.
Nominating Committee	Vin Martin, Atty
Economic Development	David Smith
Education	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Public Relations	David Smith
New Cities	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.

20
06

PAGE 2

2006 COMMISSION REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Economic Development Committee

❖ The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission held its Economic Development Global Partnership Conference on October 19 and 20 aimed at facilitating the exchange of economic development practices and increasing awareness of economic conditions among Atlanta's sister cities. The format of the conference was based around a best practice sharing and case study methodology that invited political and professional participants to share best practices around key themes and tracks.

❖ Over 10 mayors, vice mayors, and ministers representing 17 cities attended. Many of the delegates were leading economic development officials responsible for urban planning, education, trade, tourism, as well as unique programs to spur innovation in their regions. The cities that attended were: Ancient Olympia, (Greece); Daegu, (Korea); Fukuoka, (Japan); Lagos, (Nigeria); Montego Bay, (Jamaica); Nuremberg, (Germany); Port of Spain, (Trinidad and Tobago); Ra'anana, (Israel); Salcedo, (Dominican Republic); Taipei, Taiwan; Toulouse, (France); and guest cities Dalian and Ningbo (China); Bangalore, (India); Cordoba, (Argentina); Pietermaritzburg, (South Africa); and Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).

❖ The conference was coordinated in cooperation with CIFAL Atlanta, the only North American affiliate of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and with the support of the Atlanta City Council's Advisory Committee on International Relations (ACIR), the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Development Authority, the Georgia Department of Economic Development; as well as other Atlanta organizations including The Coca Cola Company and Georgia Power.

❖ The two-day conference was broken up into sessions that each focused on a distinct best practice area. Major issues addressed were: Fostering a Productive Business Climate by Public-Private Partnerships, Identifying City Development Challenges, Leveraging Educational Institutions for Economic Development, Creating Greater Quality of Life and Increasing Economic Vitality of Underserved Areas via Sustainable Urban Regeneration, City Planning for Success, Tourism and Cultural Institutions as Economic

Development Tools, Promoting Health & Safer Living in Urban Areas, and Leveraging Airports for Economic Growth.

Axel Leblond, director of CIFAL Atlanta, welcomes delegates to the Atlanta Sister Cities Economic Development Global Partnership Conference.



❖ While initial survey assessments among participant cities indicated that new job creation and improving education in public schools were the most pressing concerns, research, development and technology were a major focus within of many presentations, indicating that cities are aware of the increasing importance of these areas as they strive to attract investment.

❖ The conference program included visits to an Atlanta development site, Atlantic Station, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. A Welcome Dinner in the Atrium of Atlanta City Hall enabled delegates and their Atlanta hosts to meet in a festive environment, themed as a 'typical Southern Dinner'. Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin welcomed all the guests and recognized sister city anniversaries and individual leaders for their contribution to the sister city program.

❖ With a year in planning and over \$50,000 in sponsorship raised, the Atlanta Economic Development Global Partnership Conference provided an example of how a sister cities program can support the economic development goals of member cities. Participants had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other partner cities during the conference, and to meet with host sister city committee members and hold other social and business-related meetings before and after the event.

❖ As the first initiative of its kind to be held by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, valuable lessons were learned in fundraising, communications and the staging of an event that brought Atlanta's commercial and civic organizations together with a broad spectrum of international cities at different stages of economic development. The Commission expects economic development to be a dominant theme in its future activities and is considering additional activities for Atlanta and its partner cities.



Mayor Shirley Franklin (center) and conference participants at the Atlanta Sister Cities Economic Development Global Partnership Conference Welcome Dinner in the Atrium of Atlanta City Hall.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

❖ In February, Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis hosted a Reception for the Ambassador to Greece, Mr. Mallias. Afterwards, Mr. Mallias met with Dr. Margo Alexander, Chair and Mrs. Maria Sharp, Co-Chair, as well as with other Ancient Olympic Committee members to talk about foreign relations between the two cities.

❖ Also in February, the SCIS hosted a luncheon for the Atlanta International Community where the Ambassador Mallias was the keynote speaker.

❖ March 25th, Greek Independence Day was celebrated at the Carlos Museum with the Greek Community in Atlanta, GA with the Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis.

❖ In conjunction with the Center for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University, and the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta, an educational presentation by guest speaker, Dr. Vassilis Lambropoulos, Professor on Greek Studies at the University of Michigan, was given during the Community Luncheon in honor of Greek Independence Day on the 27th.

❖ On June 8th, ACIR sponsored a luncheon with Ambassador Mallias as the featured speaker. During the Ambassador's visit to Atlanta, the Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis hosted a meeting for Mr. Mallias, Dr. Margo Alexander, Chair and Mrs. Maria Sharp, Co-Chair to continue discussion about the relations between the two cities/countries.

❖ In July, Dr. Margo Alexander and Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp went to Greece this summer to meet with Greek Officials about an exchange program or students in the area of Higher Education as well as Greek Folk Dance and Customs.



Ioannis Skoularikis, Mayor of Ancient Olympia, with Lou Zakas, SCI State Coordinator and Dimitrios Karagiannis, Director of Tourism, Ancient City of Olympia.



Ioannis Skoularikis, Mayor of Ancient Olympia, with Dr. Margo Alexander, Chair and Mrs. Maria Sharp, Co-Chair of the Atlanta-Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee.

❖ October 17 was the arrival of the delegation from Ancient Olympia Greece for the ASCC Economic Development Conference. Mr. Ioannis Skoularikis, Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Dimitrios Karagiannis, Director of Tourism, and Konstantinos Antzoulatos, President of Patras Chamber of Commerce were among the delegates attending. All visitors were greeted at the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport by the Ancient Olympia Commission and the Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis and Deputy Consul, Mr. George Tsonis.

❖ Mr. Lou Zakas Co-Chair as well as Georgia State coordinator of Sister Cities International hosted a dinner for the entire Ancient Olympic Greece delegation.

❖ The delegation was also hosted by The Atlanta History Center to view the 1996 Olympic Exhibit. Afterwards, the Center hosted a luncheon at the Swan Coach House.

❖ The Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis and Mrs. Kakissis hosted a dinner reception for the Mayor and his delegation for them to meet various members of the local Greek community with professional ties to Olympia and Greece.

❖ The Georgia Aquarium also hosted the Ancient Olympic Delegation for a private tour of the facilities. The delegates also toured private area of the Aquarium to view and learn about the daily operations of the facility.

❖ Ancient Olympia Greece Mayor, Mr. I. Skoularikis was honored to be asked to sit with the Honorable Mayor Shirley Franklin at her table during the dinner reception that was held for all conference participants.

PAGE 4

20
06

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister City Committee

- ❖ On January 24, eighteen members of the group met at Hashiguchi Restaurant on Windy Hill Road in Marietta to enjoy some delicious Japanese cuisine and fellowship.
- ❖ On March 23, twelve high school students from Fukuoka arrived in Atlanta for an eight-day home-stay with Atlanta students and their families. The group consisted of two winners of the English speech contest sponsored by Japan America Society of Fukuoka and Japan Airlines, and ten winners of the essay contest sponsored by the City of Fukuoka. There were two boys and 10 girls, accompanied by one chaperone, an interpreter and a city staff member.
- ❖ The officials of the Atlanta Public School Systems (APS) worked very hard to accommodate these students and help them enjoy their short spring-break stay in Atlanta. The welcome reception was held at the Atlanta Public School Center for Learning and Leadership Auditorium. Kazumi Leedy, Treasurer/Secretary and a great cook, provided Japanese food for about sixty people including visiting students, their host families and school officials. The home-stay host families were from North Atlanta and Douglas High Schools.



Fukuoka students visit Atlanta's attractions

- ❖ The students enjoyed meeting their counterparts and experiencing American school activities. They enjoyed visiting the King Center, World of Coca Cola Museum, Underground Atlanta, the State Capitol, Georgia Tech, the Georgia Aquarium, CNN, Centennial Park and Peachtree Plaza's panoramic view of the City. They also delivered a message from the mayor of Fukuoka to Mayor Franklin. They went on a school field trip with hosts to the Alliance Theater with lunch at The Varsity! The visiting students enjoyed shopping at dollar stores, Wal-Mart and Lenox Square. Before their last event of Atlanta, Braves baseball, students and their hosts enjoyed the farewell reception at the APS auditorium. This was a very touching event for both visitors and host students. We hope their friendship continues to flourish by e-mails and future visit exchanges.
- ❖ On September 23 and 24, JapanFest 2006 was held at Stone Mountain State Park. We set up a booth to sell Hakata dolls and other items from Fukuoka to introduce them to Atlanta neighbors. Many volunteers enjoyed tending the booth and meeting people that were interested in Fukuoka.
- ❖ In October, four Fukuoka City officials and eight business delegates joined the Atlanta Sister Cities Economic Development Conference held at the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. The delegates dined with the Fukuoka group one evening, and on another night they enjoyed the true Southern hospitality at the dinner banquet hosted by Mayor Franklin at the City Hall Atrium.



Fukuoka delegation to the ASCC Economic Development Conference

- ❖ Instead of our December meeting, the Leedys invited our group to their home for a meeting in early January and home cooked Japanese cuisine.
- ❖ We have high member attendance for each get-together, and we continue to meet regularly.

PAGE 5

20
06

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") has been in existence since 1972. The following committees have been designed to maximize the effectiveness of the relationship and to play upon the strengths of each City. The most active sub-committees are as follows:

- ❖ Cultural Affairs
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Fundraising
- ❖ Health and Human Services
- ❖ Trade and Commerce

❖ The committee has 45 registered members but draws upon wide community support to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are held once per month.

2006 Activities

❖ **Cultural Affairs:** The Committee played a lead role in planning the celebration of Jamaica's 43rd independence anniversary. The Committee also held its annual gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall featuring several Caribbean artists. Additionally the Committee hosted a visit by Jamaica's Festival Queen. Besides visiting Atlanta's City Hall, the Festival Queen and her chaperone visited the King Center where she laid a wreath at the tomb of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

❖ **Education:** This Committee presented a plaque to the most outstanding student attending an academic learning center for teenage mothers. The successful candidate was responding to our challenge to grant special recognition to the most outstanding young lady who excelled in continuation of her education after giving birth. The Committee donated reading materials and school supplies to several basic schools in Montego Bay.



❖ **Fund Raising:** The Committee engaged in two major fund-raising activities throughout the year. In June we hosted our sixth annual golf charity tournament and in September we held our annual fund raising ball. The proceeds from these events were used in conducting our Health Mission to Montego Bay and assisted in providing needed medicines to the underserved patients seen in Montego Bay. Proceeds from these activities were also used in conducting our other programs and provided necessary financing to cover the vast array of needs which we are committed to satisfy.

❖ **Health and Human Services:** In October 2006, we undertook our twelfth annual medical mission to Montego Bay. Our team comprising 34 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals provided needed medical care to over 2,900 patients during the 3 ½ days of the mission. The team also donated thousands of dollars in medicine and medical supplies to these patients. Special attention was paid to the HIV/AIDS patients, several of whom are currently receiving their monthly supply of retroviral drugs, through the assistance of the Committee. Additionally, as part of our overall commitment to our health mission, we sponsored the third annual luncheon for the HIV/Aids patients and the third annual luncheon for patients of the psychiatric ward at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay.

❖ **Municipal Relations:** A group of five members of the St. James Parish Council, lead by Montego Bay's Deputy Mayor, and including Metty Scarlett-Jones, Chair of the Montego Bay branch of the committee participated in the Economic Development Conference organized by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and CIFAL. During the visit, Metty was presented the Phoenix Award by Mayor Franklin in recognition of her years of leadership of the organization.

❖ **Future Events:** The committee is actively engaged in planning its activities for the current year. This will include a visit to Montego Bay by students from North Atlanta High School and a return visit by Montego Bay High School students to Atlanta. The Committee will also host its many fund-raising events and will be conducting its annual Health Mission to Montego Bay.

Opposite: Metty Scarlett-Jones, Chair of the Montego Bay Committee is presented the Phoenix Award by Mayor Franklin in recognition of her years of leadership of the organization.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

❖ Members of the Nürnberg/Atlanta sister city committees, all of them working on a volunteer basis, have kept the German-American sister city relationship thriving during the past years. Teri A. Simmons, partner and director of the international department at the Atlanta based law firm Arnall, Golden, Gregory, former chair of the Nürnberg-Atlanta Committee (NACO) assumed responsibility as president of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC). Lucinda B. Smith, Director for Organizational Development at AGCO Corporation, was named new chair of NACO.

❖ On the other side of the Atlantic, Dr. Norbert Schürgers is still responsible for Nürnberg's sister city activities as Director for the Nürnberg Office of International Relations. Christina Plewinski is the programs officer for sister cities Atlanta and Glasgow, Scotland. Nürnberg-based business and intercultural coach Margaret Jankowski was voted president of the Atlanta-Nürnberg-Komitee (ANKO) in Nürnberg. ANKO is responsible for planning events in the areas of culture, fine arts, business and education and for connecting with other German-American institutions based in Atlanta's German sister city, such as the "Amerika-Haus" (German-American Institute), a bi-national not-for-profit institute.

❖ Energizing, enhancing and deepening the sister city relationship was main goal of 2007's calendar of events, which has been planned and executed in close cooperation by Nürnberg and Atlanta sister cities committees.

❖ In September 2006, the second "Crossing Bridges" Conference, established in 2004 by organizational consultant Susanne Bohn as a business women's exchange and networking project, took place in Atlanta. 200 female business executives and entrepreneurs from Atlanta and Nürnberg participated in workshops and panel discussions regarding the conference's motto "Connecting, Communicating, Succeeding".

Co-ordinators of the second Crossing Bridges Conference.



❖ In October, an official delegation from Nürnberg, led by deputy mayor Gebhard Schönfelder, traveled to Atlanta to join the first ever held Convention of the Sister Cities "Economic Development - Global Partnership". Also in October, the Board of the "German-American-Chamber of Commerce of the South," headquartered in Atlanta, held its annual meeting in Nürnberg and took the opportunity to talk with ANKO members and project partners.

❖ One of the highlights in Nürnberg's yearly calendar is the "Christkindlesmarkt," the world famous Christmas Market. As a little sibling to the Christkindlesmarkt, the Christmas Market of Nürnberg's Twin Cities has become a popular meeting venue for citizens and visitors and a treasure trove for presents from Nürnberg's sister cities around the globe. At the Atlanta booth, vendors offered souvenir license plates, mugs, Atlanta-Braves ball caps and other memorabilia from Georgia's capital. The profit made at the Atlanta booth was donated to "Children's Healthcare of Atlanta".



Atlanta booth at the Nürnberg Christmas Market.

❖ More sister city activities are planned for 2007. During May 11 – June 17, renowned painter Joachim Kersten from Nürnberg will hold an exhibition at Mason Murer Art Gallery in Atlanta.

❖ Two major events are envisioned for the weekend of September 28 -30. The "Crossing Bridges" conference will once more take place in Nürnberg, at the offices of Rödl & Partner. As the third "Crossing Bridges" Conference is getting on its way however, the event will now be opened up for business people of all genders on both sides of the Atlantic.

❖ On September 30, Nürnberg will be hosting the yearly International Human Rights conference. The Rights Award in the amount of Euro 15.000 will honor individuals or groups who have, in an exemplary manner, committed themselves to fighting for and respecting human rights. This year, Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin is expected to participate as a guest of honor. "It is our goal to strengthen the parallel between Nürnberg as city of human rights and Atlanta, the city of civil rights," comments Christina Plewinski.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ The purpose of the Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee is to provide a structure to allow people to give expression of their common desire for friendship and understanding, by initiating, developing, promoting and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships. The activities pursued by APSCC shall be educational, cultural, civic and business development in nature. The sister city relationship was established in 1987 and there are 15 committee members.

2006 Highlights

- ❖ During the month of February, the Chair of the APSCC visited Port of Spain, Trinidad where she met with Gia Gaspard-Taylor, President and members of the Port of Spain - Atlanta Sister City Committee.
- ❖ Visits were also made to the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services Department, where Ms. Kendall-Hamlet was met by the Fire Chief, Mr. Lennox Alfred, and Officer Keith Greaves. Officers demonstrated the skills of search and rescue training learned from the Atlanta Fire Services Department.



Port of Spain Fire Officers demonstrate search and rescue skills

- ❖ Both Atlanta and Port of Spain Sister Cities were represented in the march for peace around the Queen's Park Savannah.



Chairs of the reciprocal sister city committees, Norma Kendall-Hamlet and Gia Gaspard Taylor, flanked by officers and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services.

- ❖ In July the Government of Trinidad & Tobago sponsored five students, Abraham Fergusson, the youngest member of the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee, the others were Tanielle Skeete, Michelle Parmesar, Sterlyn Ralph and Kevin Johnson and two Chaperons – Gia Gaspard-Taylor – President of the POS/ATL Sister City Committee and Mrs. Parmesar, to participate in the 7th Wider Caribbean Environmental Youth Program, which took place at the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station.
- ❖ In October the Mrs. Gia Gaspard-Taylor and Mr. Khalid Hassanali represented the City of Port of Spain at the Atlanta Sister Cities Economic Global Partnership Conference. Mrs. Gaspard Taylor's topic for discussion was Natural Disasters and Mr. Hassanali discussed "Doing business in Trinidad & Tobago".
- ❖ The Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Gerard Greene and Officers of the Consul General met with the Chair and members of the APSCC at a function hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Georgia.
- ❖ November - APSCC hosted international students attending metro-Atlanta colleges and universities for Thanksgiving.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee

❖ 2006 was a year of growth and achievement for the Atlanta – Ra'anana Sister City Committee (ARSCC). The committee's progress was assisted by the addition and input from two new outstanding members; Dr. Cedric Suzman, Director of the Southern Center for International Studies (SCIS) and an ASCC Mayoral Appointee, and Mrs. Rena Kahn, Director for Israel Tourism in Atlanta.

❖ The highlight of 2006 was a visit by Mayor Nahum Hofree, City Councilwoman Ruth Elram and International Relations Coordinator Lydia Weitzman to Atlanta, 16- 20 October 2006. The goals of the Ra'anana delegation were as follows:

❖ Attend the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Economic Development Global Partnership Conference, 19 – 20 October 2006.



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Rena Kahn, Israel Tourism Director in Atlanta; Mrs. Lydia Weitzman, International Affairs Coordinator, Municipality of Ra'anana; Mrs. Ruth Elram, City Councilwoman, Ra'anana; Ra'anana Mayor Nahum Hofree, Dr. Arnold Heller, Chair, ARSCC; Mrs. Myrna Cohen, Vice Chair, ARSCC; Dr. Cedric Suzman, Director, SCIS & ASCC Mayoral Appointee.

❖ Increase cooperation between Ra'anana and Atlanta on the business and economic front that included meetings with the American – Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Division (AICCSE); Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and Georgia Department of Economic Development.

❖ Increase cooperation between Raanana and the Atlanta Jewish community to expand educational, cultural and social exchanges and contacts. From 16 – 18 October, Mayor Hofree, Mrs. Elram and Mrs. Weitzman met with Mr. Steve Rakitt, Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (JFGA); Mrs. Jane Leavey, Director, Bremen Jewish Museum; Mr. Reda Mansour, Consul General, Consulate of Israel; Rabbi Hillel Norry and Congregation Shearith Israel, Dr. Douglas Frutiger, IB Coordinator, North Atlanta H. S.; Mr. Lavon Mercer, Ass't. Athletic Director, Spelman College; Weber Jewish High School Directors Dr. Sim Pearl and Mrs. Rachel Zebrak; met with Marcus Jewish Community Center Directors Joel Gross and Burt Garr for tour and discussion, attended reception at French Consulate organized by Consul General Philippe Ardanaz that honored Holocaust survivor Ruth Hartz.

❖ Other significant activities in 2006:

- ❖ Continued cooperation between AICCSE and Ra'anana. President Tom Glaser met with Mayor Hofree on 29 March 2006 to discuss AICCSE involvement in the October delegation and assisting Raanana as it plans the Raanana Hi-tech conference scheduled for June 2007
- ❖ AICCSE Israel Advisory Board met in Raanana as guests of the Municipality, 29 March
- ❖ Ilan Friedman, AICCSE rep in Israel, advised Municipality on preparation of database of Raanana companies and ways to galvanize the business community to become involved in the city (as per AICCSE/MetroAtlanta model)
- ❖ 26 June, Dr. Cedric Suzman, ARSCC member, visited Raanana
- ❖ Mayor Hofree addressed an AICCSE delegation of visiting business people on 7/11/06 at a meeting with local business people
- ❖ Raanana Masorti Synagogue Rabbi Reuven Resnik addressed Congregation Shearith Israel during the 8 September Shabbat Service and stayed with Rabbi Hillel Norry. Rabbi Resnik also met with Rabbi Sandler of Agudath Achim Congregation to foster relationships with Atlanta's Conservative congregations and Ra'anana Masorti Synagogue.
- ❖ Twinning between Gan Ziporen in Raanana (kindergarten) and the Greenfield Hebrew Academy (GHA) flourished, with exchanges of letters and small gifts, planting of trees, and virtual meetings and correspondence over the Internet. The nursery teacher from GHA who led this project has now left and it is hoped that it will continue in 2007 with her former colleague, Suzanne Robinson.

❖ Activities expected to take place in 2007 include:

- ❖ Basketball exchange of 15 Atlanta teens + 5 escorts to Raanana for ten day training sessions in Summer 2007
- ❖ Educational exchange with North Atlanta High School
- ❖ Educational exchange/cooperation between the Weber Jewish Community School and Meitarim Raanana.
- ❖ Ongoing cooperation between the Atlanta synagogue Shearith Israel and Raanana Masorti Synagogue
- ❖ Possible exchange of exhibitions between Raanana Municipal Gallery and the Bremen Museum
- ❖ Invitation issued (1/11/06) by Mayor of Raanana to Mayor Shirley Franklin to visit Raanana in 2007
- ❖ Ongoing cooperation between Raanana and the AICCSE and the wider business community in Atlanta.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Committee has existed since 1972, one of the two oldest relationships of the city of Atlanta. Even though many years have passed since the relationship began, both Atlanta and Rio still have a lot to learn from each other.

❖ Atlanta is a city that has recently become known for its vigor and growth, and has become more than ever, the capital of the South. This city has a history of perseverance and determination to teach the world something important: the Civil Rights message, a message that the city of Rio is also working on communicating.

❖ During the last State of the City Business Breakfast, the Atlanta mayor brilliantly and passionately spoke of Atlanta's peculiar characteristic of having a dream of a city more just and prosperous and capable of giving a more equal world to its children. On the southern side of this relationship, the Mayor of Rio who for the fourth term leads the city, was able to have the city host the 2007 Pan-American Games, an event that will celebrate the diversity of South American populations. Both cities continue to share in global efforts at achieving social progress.

❖ The Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Committee has constantly worked to optimize targets for this committee, which are:

- ❖ Economic development
- ❖ Exchange of students and high school teachers
- ❖ Tourism and investment
- ❖ Art and cultural exchange
- ❖ Social projects
- ❖ Social and cultural integration between the two cities.

2006 Highlights

❖ The committee held 11 planning meetings at City Hall, in which active members, visitors and friends frequently participated. In all of these meetings the committee planned its projects and familiarized the new members with Rio de Janeiro.

Atlanta-Rio Sister Cities members at Atlanta City Hall



❖ One of the most important events of the year was the organization of the peer committee in Rio de Janeiro, which happened during the trip of the committee president to Rio de Janeiro in April 2006.



Committee in Rio de Janeiro convenes

❖ Furthermore, the Atlanta committee continues to provide information to the media about the projects and the relationship between the two cities.

What follows are some of the most important results of the Atlanta-Rio Sister City Committee efforts.

❖ We had considerable participation with local universities, such as:

❖ Georgia State University with the program "Celebrating World of Rhythm, Brazil Dance" A city-wide entertainment event was performed at the Rialto theater.

❖ University of Georgia, Department of Romance Languages: The committee provided contacts in Rio to help the students find internships

❖ Morehouse University: The committee assisted with research projects and lectures about Brazil and its possibilities for afro-descendents

❖ Troy University: The committee members arranged lectures to provide better access to Brazil between the students and professional courses.

❖ Through this exposure, the committee was contacted by students' organizations interested in possibilities for projects between Brazil, Rio de Janeiro and Atlanta or Georgia.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ The committee created a partnership with the Botanical Garden for its Carnival activity, with a focus on the Rio de Janeiro carnival and an exhibition of Brazilian orchids. At this event, members from both city committees were recorded for a TV show that was screened on the local channel, where the peculiarities of famous Brazilian plants were revealed.



Exhibition of Brazilian Orchids at Atlanta Botanical Gardens

- ❖ Committee members participated and collaborated with CIFAL Atlanta in many events whenever a contact with Rio or other Brazilian cities was necessary. In this context, we participated in the conference W2i Digital Cities in Rio de Janeiro, held in April 2006, as well as other local conferences.
- ❖ Committee members were also involved in the preparations of the ASCC Economic Development Conference in October.
- ❖ The committee provided assistance to the Brazilian enterprise community established in Georgia, especially in Cobb County, promoting official meetings with the county authorities for issues related to security and protection for the people and its businesses.
- ❖ The committee chair was officially invited to participate the Sweet Auburn Spring Fest as an Honorary Co-Chair, and was



chosen to be part of the Legend Heroes and Heroines Award Lunch in Atlanta.

- ❖ The committee participated in the Brazil Day event in Atlanta, held last September.



Committee in Rio de Janeiro

- ❖ The committee assisted in affiliating one new member, Georgia State University professor, Sheldon Schiffer, with Brazilian community members so that he could complete production of a film related to Brazilian immigration.
- ❖ The committee assisted in the research of a Ph.D. student in the department of Geography at the University of Massachusetts who is doing research on Brazilian immigration to Atlanta.
- ❖ The committee assisted 10 business students from Columbus State University, which is part of the university system of the state of Georgia, who visited SITA's operations in Atlanta and Rio de Janeiro, as part of an educational program to enrich the students' international business knowledge in May 2006.



Atlanta- Rio Sister Cities looks forward into the future. May 2007 be as successful.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee



Atlanta Councilman Jim Maddox (left) presents the Dominican Independence Day Proclamation to Victor Ramirez, Chair of ASSCC and President of the Dominican International Association of Atlanta. On the right, Greg Pridgeon, Atlanta Mayor Chief of Staff.

Commemoration of the Dominican Independence Day

❖ The Atlanta City Council proclaimed February 27, 2006 as the Dominican Independence Day in the City of Atlanta. The proclamation was presented to members of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee (ASSCC), the Dominican International Association, and the Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia at the Atlanta City Hall.

❖ Atlanta Councilman Jim Maddox said that "Dominican nationals who now reside in the City of Atlanta have significantly contributed to the economic growth and well-being of the city, while enhancing the bonds of friendship between the U.S. and the Dominican Republic."

Reception held at Atlanta City Hall for the celebration of the 163rd Dominican Independence Day



Dominican delegation to Atlanta Economic Development Conference

❖ An official delegation from the Dominican Republic attended the Global Economic Development Conference hosted by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, from October 19th through 21st. The Mayor of the City of Salcedo Juan Roque Jerez, the Vice Mayor of the City of Santo Domingo, Alexandra Izquierdo, and the Deputy Secretary of Public Health of the Dominican Republic Emma Barba met with government officials and delegates from 12 nations who came to the City of Atlanta with the purpose of sharing best practices to promote businesses among our sister cities.

Honorable Juan Roque Jerez, Mayor of the City of Salcedo (left) receives Mayor Shirley Franklin's letter of invitation to the Atlanta Sister Cities Economic Development Conference. Victor Ramirez traveled to the Dominican Republic to deliver it personally.



Atlanta delegation for commemoration of Mirabal Sisters' Day

❖ On Thursday November 23rd, the Vice Mayor of Santo Domingo Alexandra Izquierdo and the Deputy Secretary of Public Health of the Dominican Republic Emma Barba welcomed the Atlanta delegation at the Americas International Airport in Santo Domingo.

❖ Victor Ramirez, Chair of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee, Sharon Joseph, CIFAL-Atlanta Program Coordinator, Clelia Montes De Oca, Director of Cultural Affairs of the Dominican International Association, Turgay Uzer, Regents' Professor at Georgia Institute of Technology, and Dr. Mike Smitherson had a very warmth welcoming at the Vice Mayor's home in the nation's capital city.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee



Visiting the Mirabal Museum in the City of Salcedo. L-R: Sharon Joseph, Event Coordinator of CIFAL-Atlanta, Leandro Guzman Junior, Heroine Teresa Mirabal's grandchild, Emma Barba, Deputy Secretary of Public Health of the Dominican Republic, and Victor Ramirez, Chair of ASSCC.

Mirabal Sisters' Commemoration (continued)

❖ On Saturday November 25th, the delegation went to the City of Salcedo and attended a mass in honor of the three Dominican heroines brutally assassinated 46 years ago by the Trujillo dictatorship. They met with community leaders, the Mirabal family, the Mayor and Governor of Salcedo among other people. They had lunch with the Salcedo City Councilmen as well as the Chair of the Salcedo-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee Dr. José Rodríguez.

❖ Sabina Tatem, secretary of the SASCC, organized a visit to the Mirabal Museum where they were guided by Ms. Dedé Mirabal, sister of the three Dominican heroines. Also, one of the Mirabal's grandchildren, teenager Leandro Guzmán Junior debuted as tour guide, narrating the heart-touching story of the three beloved heroines.



Mass in honor of the three Dominican Heroines. Seated front center is Ms. Dedé Mirabal, sister of the three heroines, accompanied by relatives, community leaders and government officials.

Courtesy visit to Dominican Secretary of Foreign Relations

❖ Dominican Secretary of Foreign Relations Carlos Morales Troncoso met at his office with Victor Ramírez, President of the Dominican International Association of Georgia and Chair of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee, Sharon Joseph, Program Coordinator for CIFAL-Atlanta, and Clelia Montes De Oca, Director of Cultural Affairs of the Dominican International Association of Georgia. Their conversation addressed the development of closer commercial and cultural ties between the cities of Atlanta and Santo Domingo, as well as the needs of the growing Dominican community in Georgia. The delegation was introduced to Minister Mr. Morales by the Vice Mayor of Santo Domingo Alexandra Izquierdo.



L-R: Victor Ramirez, Chair of ASSCC, with Alexandra Izquierdo, Vice Mayor of the City of Santo Domingo, Carlos Morales Troncoso, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic, Sharon Joseph, Event Coordinator of CIFAL-Atlanta and Luis Piantini, Dominican Ambassador.



Victor Ramirez with Minister Carlos Morales Troncoso.

20
06

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

❖ During calendar year 2006 the Atlanta-Tbilisi committee participated with members of Friendship Force, Jack and Norma Hassinger, in obtaining medical equipment for shipment to Georgia. In particular a panoramic X-Ray machine was donated by Dr. Tom Garvin. This unit has been picked up and is waiting for shipment to Tbilisi. Dr. Garvin has also indicated that he will donate a dental chair and other accessories. They will be picked up and added to the current units and shipment to Tbilisi is anticipated by mid year 2007.

❖ Planning began early in January for participation by Tbilisi city officials in the economic development conference to be held in Atlanta during October 2006. Everything seemed to be in place but as time drew near the delegation had to withdraw due to participation in upcoming elections. Previously the Mayor had been an appointed position, but beginning with the 2006 elections the Mayor is selected by a democratic voting process. Several of the Atlanta/Tbilisi committee members did participate in the conference and passed information to their counterparts in Tbilisi.

❖ Tom McCullough, chair of the Atlanta-Tbilisi committee traveled with a group from the Georgia National Guard and the Georgia Forestry commission to conduct an economic development conference in Georgia. Specifically to promote investment and infrastructure that will increase growth, employment and government revenues and enable Georgia to provide better services, increase infrastructure development, and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The specific focus was on lumber and forestry. The conference centered on management of forestry resources and cooperation of the private sector and government in the harvesting process. Action items were established and will be monitored throughout 2007.



Members of the State of Georgia with their Georgian host.

❖ In September Tom and Mary McCullough also visited with Nino Sesitashvili and her parents. Nino was the 2004/2005 exchange student who traveled from Tbilisi to Atlanta. She is now continuing her education by going to Law school in Tbilisi.



Nino on left with her new Georgia to Georgia shirt

❖ Support for our committee by Jack and Norma Hassinger has been excellent. They made two trips to Tbilisi during 2006 working with hospitals and orphanages and are continuing to look for ways to help foster the cultural exchange between Atlanta and Tbilisi.

❖ During 2007 we plan to continue to work on cultural exchanges and where schedules and opportunities permit participate in upcoming economic development conferences. Particularly the conference planned for Atlanta in October.

2006 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

❖ During 2006, several groups of visitors from Toulouse, France were entertained. In April a group of ten people stayed with several of members of the Atlanta-Toulouse Committee (ATSCC) for five days. They visited many of the premier sites in Atlanta including the Georgia Aquarium, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Stone Mountain, CNN, Martin Luther King Center, and many other local sights. In the evenings the committee arranged parties and dining at several restaurants.

❖ For the Economic Development Conference in October, a group of 30 people visited from Toulouse including the Mayor, Jean-Luc Moudenc and several of his staff, as well as a number of business and



Toulouse exhibit at Atlanta City Hall

community leaders. In addition to providing transportation and coordinating their activities, ATSCC entertained the visitors with a dinner where they were able to meet the entire ATSCC membership.

❖ Other visitors from Toulouse included three teenagers who had won an essay contest on the theme of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech. These girls visited the French consulate and also were received by Greg Pridgeon, Chief of Staff for Atlanta City Council (see photo below). There were also several Georgia Tech students and others that were met and entertained.



2006



ATSCC group visits Fort McPherson

❖ In the spring, committee members toured the historic architecture of Ft. McPherson led by Jean-Paul Pentecouteau, an architect, who is a member. After the tour, the group took lunch together in College Park.

❖ Other club events included a party for one member who was expecting a baby, and a tour of the fabulous garden of another member. Visits were also arranged to the High Museum of Art's Louvre-Atlanta exhibit and Niki de Saint Phalle's outdoor sculptures at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

❖ Committee president, Betty Davis, along with French consul general, Philippe Ardanaz, visited Atlanta City Hall to receive a commendation for the five tons of clothing and school supplies donated by the City of Toulouse for the Hurricane Katrina victims who were living in their sister city of Atlanta.

❖ In November a Beaujolais Nouveau wine tasting event took place. In January the annual Fete des Rois took place, which is one of the committee's most anticipated events of the year.

❖ ATSCC membership has grown this year to approximately 120.



Toulouse delegation to the Atlanta Economic Development Conference

2006

ANNUAL REPORT



Members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

From left to right, back row: David Chang Hong, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; Dr. Cedric Suzman, Southern Center for International Studies - (appointed); David Smith, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Great Britain; Hon. Vin Martin, Montego Bay, Jamaica; Norma Kendall - Hamlet, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Samuel Bacote (appointed); Sumiko Renfro, Fukuoka, Japan; Victor Ramirez, Salcedo, Dominican Republic. Front row: Claire McLeveigh, director of External Affairs and International Relations, Office of the Mayor of Atlanta; Dr. Arnold Heller, Ra'anana, Israel (ASCC Vice Chair); Teri Simmons, Nürnberg, Germany (ASCC Chair); Dr. Margo Alexander, Ancient Olympia Greece; Betty Davis, Toulouse, France.



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